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Chairman: Mr. Peralta (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Paraguay)

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In the absence of Mr. Majoor (Netherlands), Mr. Peralta (Paraguay), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 97: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/63/87, A/63/89, A/63/90 and A/63/99; A/C.3/63/L.2)

Agenda item 98: International drug control (*continued*) (A/63/111)

1. **Mr. Muburi-Muita** (Kenya), after recalling that, at the 2005 World Summit, States had undertaken to strengthen the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said that his delegation endorsed the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/63/111) and it endorsed the Secretary-General's report on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/63/87). Thanks to the various technical assistance programmes undertaken by UNODC to train criminal justice and law enforcement personnel, Kenya had been able to strengthen its capacity to fight transnational crime, drug trafficking and money-laundering and had taken measures to prevent and suppress trafficking. Kenya was a member of the Eastern and Southern Anti-Money Laundering Group, which sought to coordinate activities at regional level in this sphere and to coordinate investigations into the links between corruption and money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Kenya had also adopted a zero-tolerance policy backed up by legislative and preventive measures in order to counter corruption.

2. On the international level, his delegation welcomed the recent adoption of the Programme of Action for Africa (2006-2010) whose main objective was to strengthen the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa, and urged the international community to support its implementation. Kenya had acceded to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime in June 2004 and to the three Protocols thereto in January 2005, and was working closely with its international partners and UNODC towards full implementation of those instruments. He urged those States that had not yet done so to ratify those instruments.

3. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) said that Colombia shared the opinion expressed by UNODC in its World Drug Report 2008 that more attention must be devoted to reducing demand for drugs and promoting security and development in the world's major drug-producing regions. Few countries were as affected by the drugs problem as Colombia. The Government had attacked that problem with considerable forcefulness; in addition to destroying crops, it was promoting a different type of development, based upon the family forest guards programme, which had been joined, since 2003, by 97,500 families living in strategic ecosystems, and the programme to promote productive projects which was directed at families that had voluntarily given up growing illicit crops. In that connection, she called for greater commitment from donor countries to promote alternative development projects, including preferential market access for the substitute products. Putting an end to the production of and trade in drugs, and related criminal activities such as money-laundering and weapons trafficking, was a responsibility that must be assumed by the international community as a whole.

4. **Ms. Gendi** (Egypt), quoting information provided by specialized institutions such as the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and UNICEF, observed that forced labour and trafficking in persons, far from having disappeared, had actually been promoted by globalization, despite the huge array of international legal instruments for combating transnational organized crime. In light of that situation, Egypt had decided to coordinate the work being done at national level by various ministries and bodies, and to launch a campaign aimed, on the one hand, at making the international instruments to which the country was a party part of domestic law and, on the other, at raising awareness, training relevant professionals and preventing trafficking in children, with the support of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations.

5. Egypt had also acted at the regional level by contributing to the adoption, at the African Union Summit held in Sharm El-Sheikh in July 2008, of a decision by which the African leaders had elected to work collectively towards the adoption by the General Assembly of an action plan to combat and prevent trafficking in persons, modelled on the strategy that the Assembly had adopted to combat international terrorism. The Group of African States, whose human rights activities were being coordinated by Egypt,

would shortly be submitting such a proposal to all Member States.

6. **Mr. Alhabib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) described the extensive measures his country had taken to prevent the transit of narcotics from Afghanistan across Iranian territory, including deployment of large numbers of military personnel, expenditure of considerable sums of money, construction of fortifications, enhancing of customs inspections, construction of barriers, walls and other structures to prevent the passage of caravans of drug traffickers, as well as intelligence and undercover work. The results had been commensurate with the resources invested; large quantities of opium, heroin, morphine and marijuana had been seized and numerous trafficking networks had been dismantled.

7. As regards international cooperation, which was essential for combating drug trafficking, Iran was cooperating actively with its neighbours and with the countries along the Balkan route; it had taken part in numerous conferences and meetings on the issue and had exchanged information, in particular with the relevant authorities in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Within the context of the trilateral initiative launched with those two countries, joint and synchronized operations had been organized. Lastly, he observed that the problem of narcotics produced in Afghanistan was of concern not only to that country's neighbours. Iran was expending considerable resources to combat drug trafficking, but it could not tackle the scourge single-handed.

8. **Mr. Gaisenak** (Belarus) expressed the hope that the international community would take collective action to combat human trafficking and proposed that the General Assembly should take a decision at that session, with a view to negotiating a United Nations action plan that would set forth a number of priority measures to be taken by Member States and United Nations agencies in order to coordinate action to combat human trafficking. Being universal in scope, such a plan would encourage Member States to adhere more closely to their obligations under the international instruments to which they had acceded. He welcomed the decision taken by the African Union at its eleventh ordinary session to start negotiating such a plan (Assembly/AU/Dec.207 (XI)). At the current session, Belarus would submit a draft resolution on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, so as to help expedite the plan's formulation; he invited Member States to work out a coordinated approach to defining the format and substantive elements of such a plan.

9. **Mr. Frommelt** (Liechtenstein) said that his statement would address the fight against organized crime and corruption, in addition to technical and financial assistance. His country had put a strong set of laws in place and reinforced its institutions in order to respond effectively to the challenges of organized crime and corruption. As a member of the European Economic Area (EEA), it had adapted its legislation to the developments and requirements of the European Union body of law, the so-called "acquis communautaire". In February 2008, it had also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its protocols. Once national legislation was adapted, mutual legal assistance procedures would be carried out even more swiftly. His country had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption and expected to complete the ratification process by the end of 2008.

10. Liechtenstein had provided financial support for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and had helped the Global Programme against Money Laundering establish a financial intelligence unit in Kyrgyzstan. Having established a productive working relationship with the UNODC Global Programme against Terrorism, his country hoped to continue supporting the Office's capacity-building activities in the areas of money-laundering, corruption and terrorism.

11. **Ms. Abdelhak** (Algeria) said that 10 years after the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, at which the international community had come together to adopt a declaration in support of the fight against drugs, significant progress had been made in achieving the objectives set forth therein. According to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/111), drug use appeared to be stabilizing worldwide and was in decline in countries that had adopted a sustained approach to reducing demand.

12. States needed more statistical data in order to gain a better overview of drug trafficking and adjust their activities accordingly. An evaluation of policies that favoured a different type of development, at the national and global levels, would also be useful and might provide a basis on which the Commission on

Narcotic Drugs could define best practices and correct potential excesses. Moreover, such an evaluation would promote the principle of shared responsibility.

13. Algeria fully assumed its responsibilities with regard to the fight against drugs. It had established a national office on drug control and drug addiction, had ratified the three relevant United Nations conventions and was implementing them at the national level through: (1) enforcement measures with the adoption of a law to prevent and punish drug use and trafficking; (2) treatment-related measures with the provision of social and health care for drug addicts; and (3) preventive measures involving awareness-raising campaigns. In addition, the national legal framework had been reinforced by the adoption of specific laws that took into account the documented links between drug trafficking and other criminal activities, such as terrorism, money-laundering and human trafficking.

14. The United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its additional protocols provided a comprehensive legislative framework for fighting organized crime, and had led Algeria to adopt laws against money-laundering and financing terrorism, corruption and, more recently, human trafficking, trafficking in organs, cybercrime and child abduction. Those laws aimed not only to prevent those phenomena but also to protect victims and prosecute criminals.

15. Lastly, she said that Algeria considered that harmonizing legislation relating to the fight against crime would make it possible to fill the gaps and resolve the contradictions that stemmed from normative disparities, which benefited criminal organizations. It strongly called for universal ratification of United Nations instruments, which was a prerequisite for such harmonization.

16. **Mr. Sita** (African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders) said that the Institute's mission was to promote crime prevention and control among African countries in order to foster sustainable development through capacity-building, collaboration and the institutional development of criminal justice systems and civil society.

17. The Institute's three priorities were: to support capacity-building among criminal justice personnel in Africa, in particular through training activities, so as to promote minimum standards consistent with the United Nations and the African Union and help establish the rule of law and the effective delivery of criminal justice services; to provide technical assistance to Member States upon request, in order to support their crime prevention and control programmes; and to establish a centre of excellence for crime prevention and sustainable development which would support training, research, policy development and the exchange of students, experts and academicians among African countries and abroad. The Institute also carried out a large number of studies and projects on such topics as the rehabilitation of prisoners, trafficking in persons, cybercrime and violence against women.

18. The Institute recommended that the Committee should include, in its report to the General Assembly, a request encouraging Member States to make every possible effort to meet their obligations to the Institute and to support the creation of its centre of excellence.

19. **Mr. Dall'Oglio** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that IOM was firmly convinced that humane, orderly migration benefited both migrants and society; it had been working to counter trafficking in persons for 15 years and, inter alia, had provided assistance to over 15,000 victims. In view of the multidimensional nature of trafficking, which included issues of migration, labour and criminal justice, IOM considered that partnerships — and that included inter-agency cooperation — were essential to effective action, alongside prevention, protection and prosecution.

20. In its efforts to combat trafficking, IOM highlighted the entire range of victim protection measures, going from direct assistance to reintegration; technical cooperation, to build capacities of key State and non-governmental institutions to combat trafficking; and fostering international and regional dialogue and cooperation. As a founding member of the Global Migration Group and the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, IOM also supported other global initiatives, including the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. It was in favour of the establishment of a global inter-agency grouping as an information-sharing mechanism and the development of a global action plan to counter trafficking.

21. Trafficking in persons was not an isolated phenomenon; it could not be separated from the broader context of migration. Consequently, the key challenge for all countries was to find the right balance between facilitating and controlling migration. Since

migration management was closely linked to border security issues, IOM collaborated with Governments to establish modern border management systems and improve the integrity of travel documents and advance information exchange, training and intergovernmental dialogue. It also worked on strengthening the investigation and analysis functions of ministries responsible for migration issues.

22. The technical assistance given by IOM to Governments in support of the Palermo Protocols was increasingly focused on improving their law enforcement capacities in relation to migration and identifying and prosecuting criminal organizations involved in the trafficking of persons.

23. IOM increasingly worked in partnership, in particular with the United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, INTERPOL, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

24. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that CARICOM welcomed the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/99) and joined in calling for the strengthening of the technical cooperation capacity of UNODC, so that the latter's technical assistance activities in the field, particularly to combat organized crime, corruption, trafficking in persons, and terrorism and its financing, could be mainstreamed into the respective programmes. Technical assistance for the prevention of terrorism had continued to expand during the period under review and, while appreciating the need to combat such activities from all angles, CARICOM urged that allocation of resources to that issue should not be at the expense of other critical issues, such as strengthening the institutional capacity of law enforcement mechanisms for crime control.

25. Crime and drug trafficking knew no borders; a coordinated multilateral and multidimensional approach should therefore be employed to counter their effects. In that context, CARICOM supported the adoption of a multifaceted, integrated and balanced approach based on the principle of shared responsibility and in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law

26. Given the broad mandate of UNODC, it had become essential to address the level of its regular budgetary resources, which currently amounted to less than one per cent of the United Nations budget. Consequently, CARICOM supported the appeal made in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/99) that UNODC should be granted adequate core resources.

27. Given that the Caribbean region was profoundly affected by the effects of transnational organized crime and the international drug trade, she reiterated CARICOM's extreme dismay at the closure of the UNODC regional office in Barbados, which had served 29 States and territories. The closure of that office had left a vacuum in the region's crime prevention and drug control support structure and CARICOM would continue to urge the relevant actors to reverse their decision and thereby demonstrate to the peoples of the Caribbean that their concerns were taken as seriously as those of any other group within the United Nations.

28. Although the CARICOM countries did not produce arms nor did they import arms for re-export, they were still afflicted by the scourge of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, largely due to external factors and to their unique geographical position. The close link between the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and small arms and light weapons, and transnational organized crime was well established and any effort to tackle those threats should be concerted and multidimensional not only at the national level, but also at the regional and international levels.

29. CARICOM recognized that the primary responsibility for effective crime prevention and criminal justice rested with national Governments and that, in a region with porous maritime borders, regional cooperation was critically important. In that regard, in 2007, the CARICOM Heads of Government had decided to recognize security as the fourth pillar of the Community and to broaden regional integration beyond the economic level to encompass strengthening regional security.

30. The massive expulsion of criminal offenders from developed to developing countries continued to have a destabilizing effect on the region's societies; it posed serious challenges not only to national security interests in receiving countries, but also to the

management and control of security globally. Also of concern were the socio-psychological effects of such expulsions not only for the deported person, but also for their families and, particularly, their children.

31. In 2008, the CARICOM Heads of Government and the Council of Ministers of National Security and Law Enforcement had adopted several cross-cutting initiatives including, inter alia, the formulation of a strategy for information-sharing concerning the procurement of assets by the military and the law enforcement entities of member States, and the increased use of technology for the detection, deterrence and seizure of illegal drugs, and had agreed to work towards increasing detection and surveillance capacities in relation to the movement of firearms.

32. Despite the challenges facing its members, CARICOM remained firmly committed to the multilateral process and many of its members were parties to the various international conventions and protocols concerning terrorism, drug control and crime prevention.

33. Regarding the trafficking of person, CARICOM was of the view that one of the most effective means of tackling the problem was through continued bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation, with a focus on capacity-building and information-sharing.

34. **Ms. Sahussarungsi** (Thailand) said that her Government attached great importance to the strengthening of international cooperation in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice and international drug control. In combating drugs and crime, Thailand had continuously strengthened its legal system and institutional capacity and placed strong emphasis on utilizing regional networks and engaging civil society.

35. Thailand was committed to combating violence against women and reaffirmed its support for General Assembly resolution 52/86, by which the General Assembly had adopted the Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In November, the Thai Government would have the honour of hosting the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts to review and update the Model Strategies, and it hoped that new elements would be incorporated, especially the enhancement of international cooperation to combat human trafficking.

36. Thailand's efforts in the area of human trafficking were based on the guiding principles of protection, prevention and prosecution, with human rights and the victim at the heart of the approach. Besides providing temporary shelters for victims, Thailand also believed in working to change attitudes, so as to ensure that victims were not viewed or treated as criminals and to facilitate their reintegration into society. Thailand had recently revised the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act to bring it into line with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Thailand fully understood the importance of establishing partnerships among stakeholders and of the principle of shared responsibility.

37. Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol was an ardent advocate of the human rights of prisoners. Thailand attached great importance to the treatment of female prisoners and had exchanged best practices in that area with Member States.

38. Her Government had made the fight against narcotic drugs one of its top priorities and, in April 2008, it had launched a campaign calling for an integrated approach to the problem, focusing on enhanced law enforcement, rehabilitation of drug addicts, prevention for vulnerable groups, especially youths, and enhanced community involvement.

39. Thailand was strongly committed to bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation on drug control. It had signed memorandums of understanding with neighbouring countries and it was also cooperating with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with a view to achieving a drug-free area by 2015.

40. Thailand's track record in combating the production, trafficking and abuse of narcotics had received wide recognition. Thailand was trying to eradicate the problem by tackling the root causes through implementation of alternative development projects.

41. It was also addressing the problem of the proliferation of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and was pleased to be cooperating with other countries in the region by imposing stringent controls on precursors used to produce ATS and close surveillance of habitual drug trafficking routes. It also called for the continued exchange of intelligence and for joint border patrols with its neighbours.

42. **Mr. Rogachev** (Russian Federation) said that the central role of the United Nations system in the fight against transnational organized crime should be strengthened. A common strategy should be developed, under the aegis of the Organization, setting well-defined priorities to be taken into account in the decisions of the relevant specialized agencies, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. That approach was in line with the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report (A/63/99). The strategic priorities should include the fight against terrorism, corruption, human trafficking and cybercrime, the adoption of measures against fraud, the trafficking of cultural artifacts, natural resources and personal data. Special importance should be attached to strengthening criminal justice and cooperation mechanisms envisaged in the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto.

43. At the national level, the Russian Federation had created an anti-corruption agency and was drafting a bill to amend domestic legislation so as to bring it into line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

44. His Government was concerned about the situation in Afghanistan, which remained one of the largest producers of opiates in the world, despite the progress that had been made. Drug producers and terrorist groups were working together more and more, and many countries had become aware of the need to fight the threat posed by drugs in Afghanistan beyond the borders of that country. As stressed in the resolution on the matter adopted at the fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it was important to implement the agreements reached at the Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, held in Moscow in 2006. A security zone should be created around Afghanistan in order to attack the financial base of drug traffickers. The Russian Federation welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), in which the Council had expressed its support for efforts to combat the production and trafficking of precursors to Afghanistan.

45. The Russian Federation called for cooperation between international organizations, in particular, the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and regretted that other countries had not responded to its appeal. As noted by UNODC in the World Drug Report 2008, a global system to monitor illicit synthetic drugs should be created, as the use of those drugs was no longer limited to Europe; in addition, the capacities of regional structures should be strengthened. It was important to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations anti-drug activities. To meet those challenges, measures should be taken to follow up on the conclusions of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Inter-governmental groups of experts should examine the question in advance of the ministerial meeting to be held in the context of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009.

46. **Mr. Rastam** (Malaysia) said crime was a sad reality that existed in many forms. Countries' crime prevention efforts could have an impact at the national, regional and even international level. In order to further expand the scope of crime prevention, however, international cooperation should be enhanced through exchanges of information, capacity-building, transfers of technology and confidence-building. Bilateral cooperation between countries sharing the same concerns remained an effective method of combating transnational crime. Countries should cooperate and share information on an as-needed basis, within the limits of domestic legislation and bearing in mind the sensitivity of the information. Legal mechanisms — such as conventions, treaties, regional or bilateral agreements, or memorandums of understanding — would also be needed.

47. His delegation noted with satisfaction that 147 States had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; the latter had heightened government awareness of the problem.

48. His Government was also concerned about piracy in international waters and armed robbery at sea. Although the issue was being discussed under other agenda items in other forums within the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, his delegation was raising it in the Third Committee for it required concerted action on multiple fronts and at multiple levels, in accordance with international law. For example, UNODC could, examine the issue within the context of its assessment of organized crime trends, while the increasing sophistication of the weaponry used in piracy and armed robbery at sea could be related to work undertaken with regard to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in

Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The laundering of ransom money could also be examined within that context.

49. The report of the Secretary-General (A/63/90) reflected only one side of the discussions on the elaboration of a global action plan that had taken place during the thematic debate on human trafficking. During the thematic debate and in subsequent deliberations by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008, no consensus had been reached on whether it was better for the international community to respond to the situation by applying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime or by elaborating a global action plan. Those different approaches to coordination reinforced his delegation's belief that Governments should continue to examine the feasibility of a global action plan.

50. Malaysia's Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act had come into force on 28 February 2008 and the Government would shortly accede to the Protocol. While remaining open to the idea of a global action plan, Malaysia, like many other Member States, did not wish to take a decision on the matter before it had assessed the full benefits of the Protocol.

51. Since combating corruption was a national priority, the Government had decided, on 21 April 2008, to transform its anti-corruption agency into a commission by giving it more powers and greater independence. Moreover, it had deposited its instrument of ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 24 September 2008; the Convention would enter into force in Malaysia on 24 October 2008. His country would continue to cooperate with UNODC in preventing and combating crime as well as in upholding criminal justice.

52. **Mr. Valero** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that for Venezuela, a country that shared borders with both drug-producing and drug-consuming countries, controlling drug trafficking and drug use was a priority of the project known as "Bolivarian socialism", which was based on equality, justice, liberty and solidarity.

53. In line with the principle of shared responsibility, Venezuela had taken a variety of measures, including a series of initiatives to monitor all routes — whether air, sea, waterway or land — used for drug trafficking. His country had achieved the objectives set out in the political declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

54. The United States of America had taken it upon itself to criticize Venezuela, pretending to be unaware of the lengthy battle that Venezuela had been waging in the context of preventive and enforcement strategies and activities. Those efforts, which had been recognized by international bodies, including the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, had produced tangible results. The number of drug seizures and arrests of major drug barons was proof of the Government's commitment to fighting that scourge, in order to ensure integrity in national and international public life.

55. At the regulatory level, the Government was endeavouring to bolster legal mechanisms and hand down harsher sentences. While Venezuela was not a drug-producing country, criminal organizations had tried to use it as a main transit route to countries where demand was strong. Consequently, the Government considered that all countries — whether producers or consumers of drugs — must join the battle, according to the principle of shared responsibility. To that end, international cooperation must be strengthened, particularly in the Caribbean, so as to enhance the effectiveness of national plans. In that respect, emphasis should be placed on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the principle of non-interference in domestic affairs and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

56. The battle against drugs must be waged on two fronts: on the demand side, countries must work to effectively reduce demand, while taking care of the victims; on the supply side, States must take account of people's livelihoods, particularly those of indigenous peoples, who were the guardians of cultural traditions dating back thousands of years. It must be recognized that mistakes had been made in the fight against drug trafficking, and that certain policies to curb supply had had harmful effects on the environment and, consequently, on the livelihoods of vulnerable groups.

57. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (China) said that the international community had made some headway in

combating drug trafficking. However, the results achieved as regards banning poppy cultivation in the "golden triangle" of Southeast Asia were fragile, and new types of drugs such as methamphetamine were spreading rapidly.

58. Drug control remained a complex and daunting task. In commemorating the tenth anniversary of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the international community should reaffirm its political will to cooperate in combating drug-related crime. The developed countries should have the courage to take on greater responsibilities and provide more assistance in terms of funds, technology and training to the developing countries, while respecting the latter's wishes, to help them in their capacity-building. It was also necessary to increase financial and technical support to countries in the "golden triangle" in order to consolidate the achievements in banning poppy cultivation.

59. He thanked UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Board for their efforts to raise funds for technical assistance, optimize the use of funds and enhance capacities in order to strengthen international cooperation in drug control. He encouraged UNODC to continue to strengthen dialogue and consultations with donors, recipient States and other countries and institutions concerned. China welcomed the adoption, at the fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, of a resolution to commemorate the centenary of the International Opium Commission, which had first met, in Shanghai, in February 1909.

60. His Government had formulated an integrated, comprehensive and balanced national strategy on drug control, and had taken a number of measures, including preventive education, voluntary and compulsory detoxing, rehabilitation through physical labour and training in livelihood skills. In July 2008, it had adopted a law on narcotics control which would give further impetus to its efforts in drug control.

61. China assisted countries such as Myanmar to practise crop substitution and had strengthened its bilateral cooperation with other countries in Europe and North America.

62. In addition to drugs, other transnational organized crimes such as corruption, money-laundering, terrorism and human trafficking posed ever greater threats to the international community. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption had provided the international community with a legal basis for combating transnational crimes, but there was still much to be done.

63. Countries should apply the provisions of the conventions on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit, and should complete the negotiations on a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention. In the area of international cooperation, the developing countries should be given assistance for capacity-building with no strings attached.

64. China attached great importance to the international and regional mechanisms for cooperation in combating drug-related crime, and played an active part in them. He called on the international community to begin the necessary preparations for the twelfth session of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

65. Lastly, he said that his Government had been working actively to meet its treaty obligations under the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Convention against Corruption. To date, it had signed 102 treaties in the field of judicial assistance with 58 countries; 79 of them had come into effect. China was willing to strengthen exchanges, share experience with other countries and with the United Nations, and deepen cooperation with them with a view to combating international organized crime.

66. **Mr. Glade** (Nigeria) reiterated that Nigeria attached great importance to drug control and that his country had full confidence in the international drug control system and the mechanism put in place for that purpose. However, his delegation was concerned that the principle of shared responsibility was not being fully implemented, as was evident from the unequal allocation of resources for drug control. The international community was not doing enough to address the problem of cannabis cultivation, trafficking and consumption in a universal and holistic manner. That could lead regions or Member States to define their own priorities, to the detriment of other regions and Member States. His Government had devoted considerable resources to curbing the flow of illicit drugs, especially cocaine and heroin, to other regions of the world, and it called on its foreign partners to

reciprocate by supporting its efforts to combat the misuse of cannabis.

67. In recent years, the West African subregion had surfaced on the global drug trafficking map. That situation could have been prevented, had foreign partners heeded Nigeria's calls. Back in 2001, Nigeria had launched a joint initiative with the Government of the United States in an effort to prevent such a situation from developing. At the present time, many more resources would be required to tackle the problem, which was threatening security in the subregion.

68. He therefore noted with appreciation that the Security Council seemed interested in assisting the subregion in that area. In July 2007, the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had considered the problem of drug trafficking in the subregion and had requested the ECOWAS Commission to submit a plan of action to them in order to find an immediate solution. The ECOWAS Commission would be organizing a ministerial conference at the end of October 2008 to consider the issue and to recommend the adoption of a draft political declaration. ECOWAS would also draw up a plan of action specifying the measures to be taken at the regional and national levels.

69. With regard to trafficking in persons, his Government reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, which would strengthen cooperation in that area. In August 2008, the President of Nigeria, Mr. Umar Musa Yar'Adua, had launched the Red Card Initiative to stamp out human trafficking on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters. The Government hoped that the international community would provide the technical assistance required to fulfil its commitments in that regard. It requested that Nigerian women and children who were victims of trafficking be treated with respect and dignity. In the case of repatriation, Nigerian embassies abroad should be kept informed and the persons to be repatriated should be allowed to travel with their personal belongings. The Government recognized that some United Nations agencies operating in Nigeria had greatly contributed to the positive results achieved and hoped that those agencies would receive more financial resources in order to carry out their activities.

70. His delegation called on those Member States that had not yet ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Optional Protocol, to do so without further delay and it reiterated its call for the elaboration of a global action plan for the effective implementation of the Protocol.

71. **Mr. Sen** (India) said that he would like to preface his remarks by commenting on the statement made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

72. The philosophical considerations mentioned as causes of the problems encountered were not convincing. Rather than focusing on factors such as weak socio-economic performance and weak rule of law, it would be better to help strengthen law enforcement structures and fight crime, both internally and externally. Economic development was, indeed, a categorical imperative, but it should be left to other bodies, such as the United Nations Development Programme or reformed Bretton Woods institutions.

73. By the same token, with regard to the correlation with corruption, he said that there were several examples that showed that corruption did not necessarily go hand-in-hand with increased drug trafficking. To say that, in Afghanistan, drug production occurred in regions that were not controlled by the central Government did not give a true picture of the situation. The real reason for the problem in Afghanistan, as indicated in most reports, was that the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan and the United Nations had been unable to provide viable alternatives to poppy cultivation. Moreover, the Taliban's use of drugs to finance terrorism was a classic case of narcoterrorism.

74. UNODC should concentrate on immediate and specific causes and implement an effective and coordinated strategy for dealing with the problem. It seemed contradictory that the Executive Director should, on the one hand, state that Central America and the Caribbean were caught in the crossfire between the world's largest producers and biggest consumers of cocaine, and then proceed to close down the UNODC regional office in Barbados, which had served 29 States and territories. If there were funding difficulties, the problem should be addressed in terms of the budget or by encouraging voluntary funding rather than by an administrative measure.

75. India appreciated what UNODC had done to improve international coordination, including by strengthening the capacity of various countries, especially through the development of national counter-terrorism mechanisms within the criminal justice system. However, UNODC did not have the resources needed to respond to requests for assistance.

76. Noting that the colours on the bulbs were changing quickly, he said that he would not read the entire statement that had been circulated, but he requested that it should be made a part of the record.

77. India was a party to many international instruments pertaining to the fight against drug trafficking and had a statutory framework that incorporated provisions for the control of precursor chemicals, as well as an anti-money-laundering law. There was a need to reinforce international cooperation to combat the nexus between drug trafficking, money-laundering, transnational organized crime and arms trafficking. The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006 had been a noteworthy development; however, there was a need to expeditiously adopt the comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and there must be zero tolerance for all forms of terrorism.

78. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) said that the drug problem could only be addressed through close international cooperation. Supply reduction must be matched by demand reduction. Since 1999, Myanmar had been doing its part in the context of a 15-year plan to eliminate illicit drugs which included measures for socio-economic development of the border areas where most of the opium cultivation took place, especially by creating opportunities for alternative livelihoods for former opium poppy farmers. As a result, poppy cultivation had decreased by 82.5 per cent between 1997 and 2007, and it had been completely eradicated from the Mongla, Kokang and Wa regions. The latest report of the Secretary-General (A/63/111) underscored that progress.

79. It was regrettable that the extent of the progress made by Myanmar at the national level and within ASEAN had not received the recognition it deserved from some development partners. International assistance for alternative livelihoods for opium poppy farmers was needed in order to prevent the gains achieved from being undone.

80. International cooperation was also needed to deal with the new and ominous threat posed by amphetamine-type stimulants. Myanmar, which neither produced nor imported any precursor chemicals, was cooperating closely with its neighbours to interdict the trafficking of such products.

81. **Mr. Toh** (Singapore), citing the UNODC World Drug Report 2008, noted that globally illicit drug use had been contained to less than 5 per cent of the adult population; nevertheless, much still needed to be done in the fight against drugs.

82. Singapore had faced the problem since its independence in 1965, but had lacked the means to coordinate its efforts. However, in 1994 it had adopted a comprehensive approach based on four integrated strategies — prevention, enforcement, treatment and rehabilitation — which had produced encouraging results. In the area of prevention, the relevant authorities were working with the National Council Against Drug Abuse, created in 1995, ethnic community groups and the Ministry of Education to raise awareness among young people about the dangers of drugs. In the area of enforcement, Singapore authorities regularly conducted anti-narcotics raids and worked closely with the countries members of ASEAN and other international partners, including Australia. In the area of treatment and rehabilitation, programmes were differentiated to suit the profile of offenders. Programmes had been developed to help ex-addicts upon release from drug rehabilitation centres or prisons to find employment, undertake skills training or continue their rehabilitation in halfway houses.

83. In conclusion, he said that Singapore remained committed to fighting the drug problem and would adapt its strategies to evolving trends in drug trafficking and abuse. Continued international cooperation was also important.

84. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that Afghanistan's national drug control strategy had resulted in a net decrease in the cultivation and production of opium poppies compared with 2007, and referred to the figures shown in the survey released by UNODC in August 2008 (Afghanistan Opium Survey 2008). Thanks to a combination of law enforcement and economic measures adopted by the Government, 18 of 34 provinces were opium free (compared with only 6 in 2006). The most impressive result was in Nangarhar province, which had been the second highest opium-

producing province in 2007 and was currently opium free.

85. Noting that 98 per cent of the opium was grown in just seven provinces in the south-west (Daikundi, Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, Nimruz, Oruzgan and Zabul), where there were permanent Taliban settlements and organized drug mafias, he stressed that the direct link between the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, on the one hand, and the financing of terrorist groups and illicit activities, on the other, must be broken.

86. Lack of security, extreme poverty and pressure from traffickers and local criminal groups were the main causes of expansion of poppy cultivation. The international community should not delay in helping Afghanistan to implement its national drug control strategy, especially in the areas of enforcement, alternative livelihood programmes with a focus on poverty alleviation, and regional cooperation. While rising global food prices combined with drought had created a food crisis in Afghanistan, it had also made wheat cultivation more profitable and therefore more attractive. Although the global demand for illicit drugs did not appear to be increasing, there were still 25 million drug users in the world. In that context, his delegation would like to emphasize a principle mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/111) and reaffirmed at the fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, namely, that the fight against drugs was a common and shared responsibility that required an integrated and balanced approach through national and international measures. It also necessitated a balanced approach between supply reduction in drug-producing regions and demand reduction in drug-consuming countries.

87. Recalling the recommendations contained in Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), he stressed the need to stop the diversion of precursor chemicals that could be used in Afghanistan to process heroin. Since Afghanistan was a landlocked country, traffickers transported drug consignments through neighbouring countries and other transit States to European markets. Strong enforcement measures for the control of borders and mutual cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities of the countries concerned were therefore needed. In fact, intelligence sharing and joint operations in 2008 had resulted in major seizures in Afghanistan, in neighbouring countries and in the region. He underscored the need to implement the trilateral agreement signed in 2007 by Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with a view to reinforcing border controls and increasing information sharing.

88. In conclusion, he said that his Government was grateful for the support received from the international community as a whole and especially UNODC. It feared, however, that those achievements could be reversed if attention to the problem was not sustained.

89. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), recalling that his country was a party to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and had acceded to the Optional Protocol thereto in 2008, said that it had set up a working group to develop a national preventive mechanism with a view to applying the principles set forth in those instruments.

90. In June 2008, it had put in place a biennial strategy designed to: improve national legislation relating to the social rehabilitation of prisoners; prepare them for release; ensure their social reinsertion upon release; and obtain the cooperation of civilian and prison health agencies in providing medical and health care for prisoners while in prison and upon their release.

91. In 2007, his country had abolished the death penalty and replaced it by life imprisonment. Recognizing that prisoners were members of society, Kyrgyzstan was working to protect their freedom of expression and their right to life and was making every effort to offer them humane prison conditions and not marginalize them once they were released. He drew attention to the substandard conditions of prisons in Kyrgyzstan and called on donor countries to help it create decent conditions for prisoners — including those serving life sentences — and to facilitate their social reinsertion upon release from prison.

92. **Ms. Banzon-Abalos** (Philippines) said that, in 2007, treatment facilities had reported a total of 4,278 incidents of drug abuse, 19 per cent of which involved persons between the ages of 25 and 29. Methamphetamine hydrochloride and cannabis remained the most commonly abused substances. At the same time, however, the number of cannabis plantation sites had been reduced by 57 per cent. In 2007, law enforcement authorities had apprehended 10,061 persons; 8,713 had been prosecuted for drug trafficking; nine clandestine laboratories and 13 storage

facilities had been dismantled. The Government's strategies for reducing demand and supply were based on prevention; treatment and rehabilitation; campaigns against the use and trafficking of illegal drugs; regulatory compliance; judicial and legislative measures; and national, regional and international cooperation.

93. Now that full implementation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act was being coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Agency with the cooperation of the public sector and civil society, particularly at the local level, there was growing optimism that a drug-free Philippines could be realized. In conclusion, she said that domestic measures were only half the solution. International cooperation must be strengthened in order to fight the scourge that particularly touched the most vulnerable groups.

94. **Ms. Phommachanh** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) thanked the Executive Director of UNODC for his statement and for his outstanding leadership. Referring to the World Drug Report 2008, she said that while the results were encouraging, in terms of drug consumption, that progress could be undermined by a massive increase in opium and coca cultivation, mainly in the regions lacking central government control, and higher drug use in developing countries. Moreover, new drug trafficking routes had emerged in many parts of the world, making international cooperation and exchange of information more crucial than ever.

95. The Lao People's Democratic Republic had ratified the three major international drug control treaties and had signed a number of multilateral and bilateral agreements. The Government was determined to implement the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session and had fulfilled its objectives two years ahead of the 2008 target.

96. Her country had been officially declared opium free in February 2006. Poppy cultivation, which had decreased by 40 per cent between 2006 and 2007, had been kept at a low level for the third year in a row. Despite the progress achieved, half the country's small farmers could return to poppy cultivation for lack of alternative sustainable livelihoods.

97. With regard to demand reduction, she said that prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes and services had been expanded and improved, and that drug awareness campaigns had been organized to mobilize communities to fight illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. Drug treatment and rehabilitation centres had been established throughout the country with support from bilateral donors and UNODC.

98. With regard to law enforcement, steps had been taken to strengthen capacity-building for law enforcement officials and to improve border controls, by establishing border liaison offices at the most sensitive border crossings. The first narcotic drugs law had entered into force in January 2008 and a national drug control master plan (2009-2013) would be developed in close consultation with UNODC and key national stakeholders.

99. In conclusion, she thanked the international community and donor countries for their support and cooperation, adding that in order to make the victory a lasting one, former opium farmers and addicts must be provided with sufficient, appropriate and sustainable assistance. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was at risk of becoming a transit route for drug trafficking and needed continued support in order to implement the national drug control master plan.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.